

City Source



Issue
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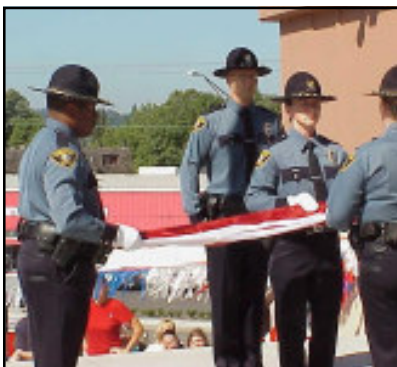
RENTON, THE CENTER OF OPPORTUNITY



PICTURE RENTON



Municipal Parking Garage



Honor Guard



Fire Station 12



Springbrook Creek

NEWS IN BRIEF

City Council Adopts Budget

The Renton City Council unanimously passed the 2007 budget of \$212,639,671. The budget includes 19 new employees, represents an ambitious capital improvement implementation plan, and invests in basic services, public safety, economic development, neighborhoods and human services. The budget also includes \$58,572,956 for significant projects for transportation, parks and trails, the airport, and utilities.

February--Renton Heart Month

In support of American Heart Month, the Renton Fire Department encourages citizens to check their blood pressure and blood sugar during the month of February at a Renton Fire Station. Participate in "heart healthy" activities at Renton parks, recreation facilities, and community centers.

Renton is Wired!

Renton is launching a new website in January which better reflects its wired image. "Access Renton" kiosks located at strategic public facilities around the city will provide easy away-from-home access to the new website. Wi-fi is also easy to find around the city. Renton's emergency and other mobile departments carry their own wi-fi center for more effective service to residents.

Neighborhood Grants

The City of Renton Neighborhood Grant Program is dedicated to stimulating community projects that build stronger neighborhoods and build partnerships between the city and its neighborhoods. Grant applications are due by 5 pm on Feb. 16, 2007. Call 425-430-6595 or visit rentonwa.gov.

Springbrook Wetlands Project Kicked Off in December

On Dec. 7, Renton's Mayor and Councilmembers, the Mayor of Tukwila, and representatives from WSDOT and Renton School District and school board all celebrated the kickoff of an innovative wetlands conservation project. The Springbrook Project provides a learning environment for students, protection of original wetlands, and cost savings for the city's future transportation projects.



YEAR IN REVIEW: ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2006

2006 has been a year of forward progress for the City of Renton. From recruiting the Seattle Seahawks to the deployment of a new online police reporting system, the city used its resources to the betterment of its community. Highlights include the following.

Citywide Economic Development

In August 2006, Renton celebrated the groundbreaking for The Landing, due to open in 2007. Providence Health Systems has made Renton their home, as have the Seattle Seahawks, who plan to move their headquarters and training facilities to the southern tip of Lake Washington.

The Federal Reserve has started construction on its state-of-the-art cash processing facility. IKEA added 36,000 square feet of retail space, making the Renton IKEA the largest single-story IKEA store in the world and the highest grossing IKEA store in North America.

Conner Homes has broken ground on their 20-acre luxury lakefront residential development along Lake Washington Blvd.

Revitalizing Neighborhoods and Communities

In cooperation with WSDOT, the Springbrook Creek wetlands will become an environmentally friendly trail and educational resource, while at the same time earning Renton economic credit for preserving the wetlands.

A new 10-acre neighborhood park in the Highlands, for which we've received a grant of \$15,000 from Starbucks, is also now under construction. The dedication is slated for May 2007.

Renton has developed a tri-park master plan for improvements at Cedar River Park, Liberty Park and the Narco Property.

In Community Services alone, Renton has over 1,700 volunteers contributing the equivalent of over \$370,000 worth of services.

The Neighborhood Program is going strong, recognizing

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www.rentonwa.gov

RENTON
AHEAD OF THE CURVE

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RENTON, THE CENTER OF OPPORTUNITY

Year in Review Cont'd

30 Renton neighborhoods, 13 of which hosted summer picnics in 2006. Neighborhoods received over \$12,500 for beautification and communication projects.

Managing Infrastructure and Planning for Growth

Renton has been working with regional agencies to promote and fund city projects. In 2007, construction will begin on \$300 million in improvements to the I-405 and SR 169 corridors through Renton.

There have been major improvements to the intersection of Duvall Ave. NE and Sunset Blvd. NE and Renton has obtained a \$4.7 million grant for the SW 27th/Strander Blvd. project.

Renton has opened the new Maplewood Water Treatment

Facility. The city has also improved the city's credit rating, which reduces future costs pertaining to loans for new projects.

Contributing to the Livability of the Community

Critically important to the City of Renton and its quality of life are public safety services. In 2006, Renton took several steps to strengthen law enforcement efforts.

The E-police system was deployed, which is an online web-based police reporting system. Since May 2006, we have saved over 150 hours of police officers' time.

The city participated in intensive emergency management training at the FEMA training center in Maryland to better prepare us for emergencies.

OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

January 8-13

Rumpelstiltskin. Missoula Children's Theatre returns to Carco Theatre with the production of "Rumpelstiltskin." Auditions Monday, Jan. 8, at 4:30 pm at the Renton Community Center. Contact Jennifer Cadwell at 425-430-6700.

Friday, Jan. 12

7 pm. **Tingstad & Rumbel**. Renton Ikea Performing Arts Center. 425-204-3455. www.ikeapac.org

Friday, Jan. 26

7 pm. **Jet City Improv**. Renton Ikea Performing Arts Center. 425-204-3455. www.ikeapac.org

Every Monday night

7 pm. **Renton City Council Meetings** at City Hall. Open to the public.

Renton Addresses Annexation Questions

Annexation is a major issue facing Renton through 2010. East Renton, Benson Hill, Fairwood and West Hill are all part of Renton's potential annexation areas. The city has begun planning for service delivery so that if residents choose to annex, the city will be ready to provide services. King County and state growth policies encourage unincorporated areas to either annex or incorporate, including offering funding incentives to offset costs.

Renton's Mayor and City Council believe that annexation is up to the residents of potential annexation areas. It is the city's policy not to initiate annexations but to make information available so residents can make an informed governance decision.

Future governance choices will be up to the respective residents of **West Hill** and **Fairwood**. No active annexation petitions are pending. City representatives are available to meet with interested community groups to provide information about annexation at each community's request.

In **Benson Hill**, home to 16,000 people, 800 residents have signed a petition to annex, which is currently being reviewed by the county. With enough valid signatures, residents can vote on the issue sometime in 2007.

On Feb. 6, voters in the **East Renton/Preserve Our Plateau Annexation** area will decide whether to annex to Renton. Residents in the area have asked about the following issues:

Services. School district boundaries, water service from Water District 90, and fire and emergency medical services will not change. With

annexation, local services such as police, parks and recreation, street maintenance, and land use permits would be provided by the City of Renton; the city would hire new employees to serve the area. The city has already created a service transition plan and is negotiating with King County for additional funding. If residents choose not to annex, services would continue to be provided as they are today. Smaller areas may choose to incrementally annex to Renton, and the area would stay in the city's potential annexation area.

Taxes. In most cases, the overall tax burden to East Renton residents will be the same or slightly lower, although the types of taxes paid would change (utility and property taxes). Business owners would face a business license fee if annexed.

Zoning. The city has worked with a task force of residents and property owners to propose new zoning if annexed. The city believes this zoning proposal provides the community more certainty about future development in the area than current King County regulations.

Sewer. Annexation will not require a sewer connection. On Feb. 7, the current sewer moratorium will be lifted regardless of whether the area chooses to annex. If residents choose not to annex, permits would be issued according to King County's standards.

For more information, please call 425-430-6500 or 425-430-6575, or go to rentonwa.gov and search for "Annexation Information."



Renton Airport Informational Workshop and Open House

Renton Airport will be hosting an informational open house and workshop aimed at informing interested members of the community about the Airport Master Plan Update. Jan. 16, 6 p.m.- 8 p.m. at Council Chambers, City Hall.

CITY CONTACTS

Area Code 425

Mayor 430-6500

City Council 430-6501

Municipal Court Judge.. 430-6550

Chief Administrative Officer
..... 430-6500

Community Services ... 430-6600

Planning/Building/Public Works
..... 430-7200

**Economic Development,
Neighborhoods, & Strategic
Planning** 430-6575

Code Enforcement 430-7373

**Administrative, Judicial, Legal
Services** 430-6500

Emergencies 911

Police 430-7500
or epolice.rentonwa.gov

Fire 430-7000

**Human Resources & Risk
Management** 430-7650

Finance & Information Services
..... 430-6850

www.rentonwa.gov